

**Amendments to the Claims:****Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An adsorbent formed by the steps of coating an adsorption basis with a gel substance changing a mixed aqueous solution of an active carbon and a gel-formable substance into a gel and subsequently subjecting the ~~coated basis~~ resultant gel to a freezing treatment.

2. cancelled.

3. cancelled.

4. cancelled.

5. cancelled

6. (currently amended) An adsorbent according to claim 1, wherein said ~~gel-gel-formable~~ substance is the divalent metallic salt of a macromolecular polycarboxylic acid.

7. (original) An adsorbent according to claim 6, wherein said divalent metallic salt of said macromolecular polycarboxylic acid is calcium alginate.

8. (currently amended) An adsorbent according to claim 1, wherein said ~~gel-gel-formable~~ substance is ~~soybean curd, jelly, konjak, agar, perilla, gelidium jelly,~~ or chitosanoxalic acid salt-gel.

9. (previously amended) An adsorbent formed by drying an adsorbent set forth in claim 1.

10. (currently amended) An adsorbent ~~comprising which comprises~~ an adsorbent moiety formed by coating an adsorption basis with a first gel substance comprising an adsorbent set forth in claim 1 and a second-gel substance moiety.

11. (currently amended) An adsorbent according to claim 10, which is formed by seasoning either said adsorbent moiety or said ~~second-gel~~ substance moiety.

12. cancelled.

13. (previously amended) An agent for removing a harmful substance by adsorption, said agent comprises an adsorbent set forth in claim 1.

14. (original) An agent according to claim 13, wherein said harmful substance is a food additive, a feed additive, an agricultural pesticide, a food poisoning substance, allergen, a

heavy metal, or strongly poisonous organic compound which is suffered to adhere to or mingle in a foodstuff or an animal feed or assimilated into the digestive system.

15. (original) An agent according to claim 14, wherein said feed additive is an antibiotic substance, a synthetic antibacterial agent, or a hormone agent.

16. (original) An agent according to claim 14, wherein said food poisoning substance is exotoxins, autotoxins, or a harmful chemical substance.

17. (original) An agent according to claim 13, wherein said harmful substance is formed of an antibiotic substance which has either undergone oral ingestion or acted on the intestinal bacteria.

18. (previously amended) An agent for the removal by adsorption of a surplus nutrient assimilated in the digestive system, which agent comprises an adsorbent set forth in claim 1.

19. (previously amended) An agent for the removal by adsorption of the intermediate metabolite of alcohol formed in the digestive system in consequence of the assimilation of said alcohol, which agent comprises an adsorbent set forth in claim 1.

20. cancelled.

21. cancelled.

22. cancelled.

23. cancelled.